


News: CD release kicks off band finale - p2
Sports: Fyten vows to make the cut - p8

DIDSBURY REVIEW

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Firefighters aim to be the best

BY JOHNNIE BACHUSKY
Review Staff

They are four young men. They are determined and committed firefighters who aim to be fitter, faster, stronger. They are Didsbury's finest.

Each of them would make Tommy Gavin, the firefighting hero from television's *Rescue Me*, mighty proud.

For the past five weeks they have been training for national recognition. Last weekend the four local volunteer firefighters - Matt Code, Jesse Derksen, Zach England and Craig Martin - were in Leduc for the Prairie Regional round of the Scott Firefit Championships, a national competition which will be aired on TSN from Baie Comeau, Que. on Aug. 31.

"We have been training three or four days a week for the past five weeks," said Martin, who has been a local firefighter for the past four and a half years. "We are glad to be doing this, thanks to the support of our fire department, team members and our families."

The Leduc Prairie Regional round competition is gruelling. If they do well on the first day the four firefighters earn the right to compete the following day. If they place high enough it is on to the finals in Quebec.

The Scott Firefit Championships have been held every year since 1994. It features hundreds of firemen from municipalities across the country. The competition is based on firefighting tasks commonly performed in emergency situations and is open to any firefighter from any department, full-time or volunteer.

The competition features three kinds of races - individual, team relay and NxG2 relay, the latter being a two-person technical race with a cylinder exchange at the



Didsbury's firefighters have been training for five weeks for the Prairie Regional round of the Scott Firefit Championships. At top, left to right, are Matt Code and Jesse Derksen. At bottom, left to right, are Zach England and Craig Martin.

halfway point. All the firemen are required to be in full firefighter gear with oxygen tank and mask.

The individual and team relay races both have six tasks for the firemen. They both begin with a six-floor stair climb with a high rise pack.

Once at the top firemen

then have to perform a hose hoist, a forcible entry with an eight-pound shot mallet, a 140-foot run around fire hydrants, a 75-foot hose advance and finally a victim rescue where a 165 pound mannequin with coveralls and boots must be dragged backwards a distance of 100 feet.

"The last part is the most intense," said Martin. "We have to drag that dummy to the finish line."

He said the Didsbury crew has been doing its best to practise the events. However, Didsbury does not have a six-storey building. Instead, the local fire-

fighters have been using nearby hills to train.

And what do the winners receive?

"There is a trophy," said Martin.

What's more is that the winning firemen earn the right to claim the title of being fittest, fastest, and strongest. Tommy Gavin would be proud.

First tot park opens

BY JOHNNIE BACHUSKY
Review Staff

Chelsie Hopfe's dream is about to come true.

The local mother of two toddlers will witness 14 months of hard and dedicated work realized with Friday's grand opening of the Kinsmen Playground Enhancement Project at the existing Kinsmen Park on 23 Street. It is Didsbury's first play area ever designed and built specifically for children between the ages of two and 12 in one of the town's seven public parks.

"I am just thrilled for my kids," said Hopfe, president of the Didsbury Playground Society. "We are looking forward to using it this summer."

The new play area covers a large green and treed section inside the existing park. The play equipment for the age group was installed on June 2. The equipment includes one large play structure and several smaller ones, including a teeter-totter and bouncers. As well, a figure eight bike trail is being created around the play equipment. The asphalt for the new play area was put in two weeks ago.

Hopfe's vision for Didsbury started 14 months ago when she realized there was no appropriate playground for her two young daughters, who are now aged three and one.

"None of them (parks) were appropriate for the development and safety needs for toddlers," said Hopfe, a former elementary school teacher and now an off campus teacher with the Chinook's Edge School Division. "I tucked that in the back of my head. I was disappointed."

See Park on page 10

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Recent blood donor clinic surpasses goal

BY JOHNNIE BACHUSKY
Review Staff

Didsbury and area residents stepped up to donate 122 units of blood at the first clinic of the year on June 4.

The goal of Canadian Blood Services (CBS) was to collect 120 units.

CBS said each donation can help save or improve up to three lives, which means that more than 366 citizens in need of blood will benefit from the recent drive.

The clinic was possible through the cooperation of the Didsbury Memorial Complex, where the mobile blood donor clinic was held, and the Didsbury Order of the Royal Purple.

Although CBS officials are praising locals for the successful drive they note one in four donors who made appointments did not show up to give blood.

CBS noted donors do lead busy lives and may not be able to attend their appointment, however, officials added that if anyone cannot make their appointment, they should call CBS at 1-888-2 DONATE (1-888 236-6283) to cancel, as the spot can be given to another donor. This will help CBS ensure patients continue to get the blood they need when they need it.

Sabrina DiCintio, community development coordinator at the Calgary office of Canadian Blood Services, noted nearly 300 units of blood has been donated from Didsbury over the past year. In that same period she noted CBS has welcomed 20 new donors.

"We have a dedicated volunteer group from the Order of the Royal Purple that has been supporting our clinics and serving juice and cookies to donors for over 10 years. We couldn't do it without them," she said.

The second and final Didsbury blood drive of 2012 will be held Monday, July 30 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Memorial Complex. There are no clinics held at either Carstairs or Cremona. Olds is scheduled to have three blood donor clinics this year. The next one will be held Sept. 24 at the Olds College Student Alumni Centre from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

CBS is also aiming for 120 donations. Call CBS at 1-888-2 DONATE (1-888 236-6283) to make an appointment. Appointments are recommended to help reduce clinic line-ups and waiting times.

Healthy people can donate blood every 56 days between their 17th and 71st birthday (regular donor) or between 17th and 61st birthday (first-time donor). Donors are required to have their donor card or photo and signature identification.

For more information about eligibility to give blood, visit blood.ca.

"We have a dedicated volunteer group from the Order of the Royal Purple that has been supporting our clinics..."

SABRINA DICINTIO
Canadian Blood Services

CD a symbol of passion, commitment

BY JOHNNIE BACHUSKY
Review Staff

Music is a big deal at Didsbury High School.

Half of the school's total student population is in the music program. Ninety of the 130 students in the program are in one band while 38 are in another.

"It is very much a cultural thing when you got half the school doing something like that," said Kirk Wassmer, the school's music director for the past 11 years.

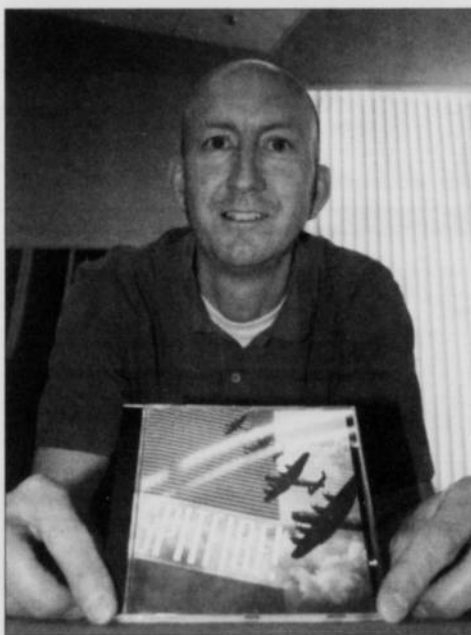
And the appreciation for this beautiful art form is once again documented for the ages. Last Friday, while the school's concert band was performing at this year's final performance at the TransCanada Theatre in Olds, the school's music department released *Spitfire!* - a CD of music that is released every other year and the fifth one ever produced by the school.

There are 14 songs on the CD performed by the school's five groups - the two concert bands and three jazz ensembles - in the music program. The cover and sleeve design was created by Corinne McKetiak, a Didsbury High School (DHS) music program graduate and now a Calgary-based graphic designer.

The CD project was expensive. It cost about \$5,000 to produce. However, Didsbury's Zion Thrift Store and the DHS Band Society, which includes parents of the program's young students, stepped up with financial help.

Wassmer said there was no special theme for the CD but added students had a chance of a lifetime to learn the CD-making process.

"Educationally there is a real value in going through the recording



Johnnie Bachusky
Kirk Wassmer, Didsbury High School music director, holds a copy of the CD *Spitfire!*

process," he said. "You get one take to make it as perfect as possible."

As for the selection of music, the pieces - including the CD's title track *Spitfire!* - were essentially Wassmer's choices. However, the

songs chosen were ones students had been rehearsing throughout the school year for concerts and festivals.

"For the most part the kids are pretty attached to them," said Wassmer, who added last week his stu-

dents were getting excited with the pending release of the CD. "The process was a lot of hard work. Now that it is done there is this anticipation for its release."

As another school year comes to a close Wassmer not only has satisfaction and pride for his students' accomplishments he remains impressed by the camaraderie they have; at how close they became as a group during a year that has seen hard work, dedication, travel and many concerts and festivals.

"The groups this year are top-notch, some of the finest I've ever had," said Wassmer. "We've had a busy touring year and did a lot of travelling. Our schedule was pretty busy."

"All of those activities bring these groups close together," he added. "These kids are such great representatives for our community."

Meanwhile, each of the school's 130 students in the music program receives a free copy of the CD *Spitfire!* The cost for citizens is \$10. For more information on the CD and the school music program contact Wassmer at 403-335-8036.



Noel West/Didsbury Review
Kirk Wassmer directs the Grade 9 jazz ensemble during its performance of *Fly Me to the Moon* at the Jazz Finale 2012 held at the TransCanada Theatre last Thursday.

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Cyclists bring MS awareness

BY LEA SMALDON
Review Staff

Cyclists hit area roads this past weekend in an effort to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

One of the society's MS Bike Tours left Airdrie Saturday making a stop in

Carstairs, and bringing a show of force into Didsbury before heading to Olds where they stayed overnight before backtracking the same route Sunday.

As of yesterday, the MS Society hadn't released the official amount of pledges raised by participants of

the two-day ride.

The MS Bike Tour has been a critical part of the MS Society's fundraising efforts for over 20 years. Proceeds from this event and others like it fund innovative programs and services and support ground breaking research dedicated to finding a cure.



Andrew Cross/Didsbury Review
Bunsen Honeydew teammates Leah Grant, Kimmy Schlagel, Janine Grant, Mike Grant and Mitch Grant stop for lunch on the first day of the MS Ride Tour on Saturday.

Seniors group honoured by province for efforts

BY JOHNNIE BACHUSKY
Review Staff

The Didsbury and District Seniors Support Services (DDSSS) has earned a special proclamation from the province for its commitment to improve the lives of seniors in town and the surrounding area.

A proclamation plaque was presented to board members, including Chris Elliott, DDSSS president and Jean Freeman, vice-president and board director Seigred Grieve, during a ceremony June 4 at the Golden Circle in Red Deer. The honour to DDSSS was given as the province proclaimed Seniors Week from June 4 to 10.

On hand for the presentation was Fred Horne, provincial minister of health and George VanderBurg, minister of seniors and community supports.

"We were honoured for the work we have done in the community and for seniors," said Elliott. "We are all getting older. This is a real seniors town. We try to do our part."

DDSSS has served Didsbury and the area since 2000. The volunteer organization was created to offer support services and programs to assist and enhance the quality of life for the seniors' population, now estimated at more than 145 in Didsbury and the surrounding region. It provides many programs, including



Johnnie Bachusky/Didsbury Review

Board members of the Didsbury and District Seniors Support Services gather to mark their special proclamation award from the provincial government this month. At far left in the front row is organization president Chris Elliott while vice-president Jean Freeman holds the plaque.

medical transportation, caring visits, information and concerned support.

Prior to this month's proclamation, the organization was awarded the 2006 Minister's Seniors Service Award, and again in 2010. In 2009, the Didsbury and District Chamber of Commerce presented DDSSS with the Small Business Award in the category of Not-for-Profit Registered Society.

"We are very humbled to be recognized by the Province of Alberta," said Lois Wright, the organization's office liaison, who added the group's board members provide the community with more than 5,000 hours of volunteer work a year. "We've had a number of awards from the province and it is wonderful to be acknowledged for all our hard work."

Meanwhile, there will be a

special seniors celebration on Thursday (June 14) at 1:30 p.m. at Memorial Complex. The theme of the celebration is Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. Up to 150 seniors are expected to attend.

Admission is free for seniors.

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Editorial

Some risks worth taking

The petition initiative by local resident Rick Lavigne is valuable for the community because it creates healthy discussion and debate.



**JOHNNIE
BACHUSKY**

However, Lavigne is missing the mark by suggesting there is some sort of irresponsibility on the town's part for investing funds for the future, money that could in the long term reap significant dividends for Didsbury's future.

Lavigne suggested in the *Review* earlier this month the town is teetering on the edge of bankruptcy and that citizens have a right to know where their money is going. He is alarmed over what he

sees as rising residential taxes and decaying infrastructure. The former mayoralty candidate adds businesses are leaving the town. The latter point is especially not lost on Mayor Brian Wittal, who passionately argued against Lavigne's concerns during an interview with the *Review* earlier this month.

Wittal knows more businesses are needed in Didsbury. He has been deeply concerned over the grossly inadequate commercial tax base for quite some time. For more than a year Wittal has been telling citizens and the media that residential tax revenues now account for 89 per cent of Didsbury's income compared to 11 per cent for commercial and industrial. That is clearly unacceptable for Didsbury or any municipality.

Provincial studies and statistics show that in order for a municipality to become sustainable it has to have tax revenues that are 70 per cent residential and at least 30 per cent commercial and industrial. Didsbury has a long way to go to get there.

Lavigne offers no real solutions to what he feels is a crisis with the town's fiscal position, other than to convince the province's Municipal Affairs department to conduct a forensic audit. Wittal is placing his bets on the future prosperity of Shantz Crossing, the new 40-acre business park the town has invested \$2 million into, and one that is scheduled to open with its first tenants this fall.

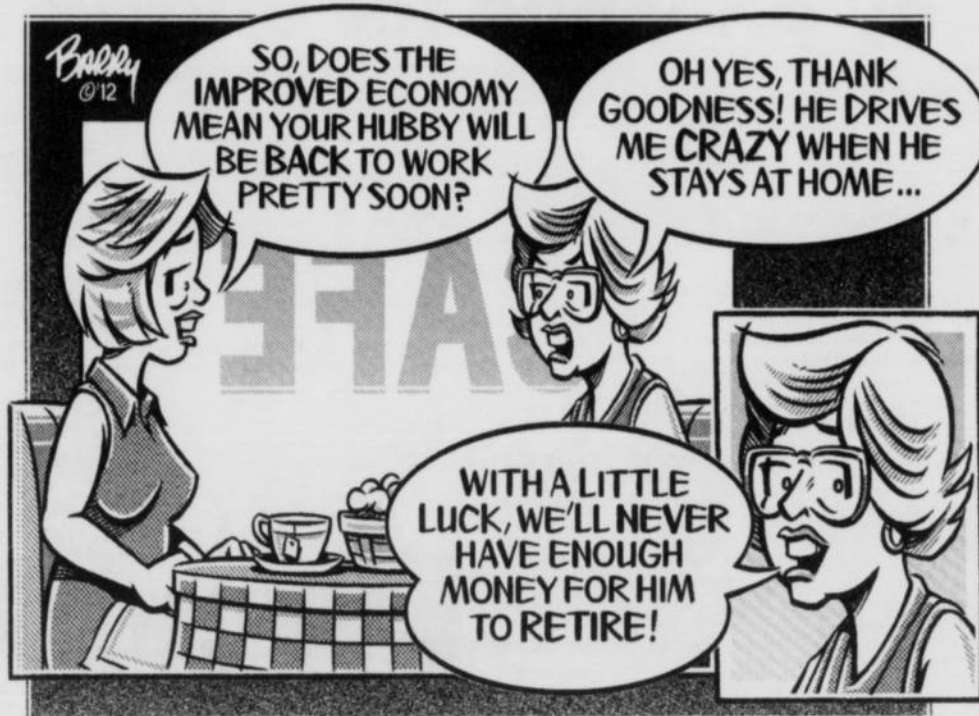
With these new revenues it will be easier for the town to fix infrastructure issues, as well as pursuing new initiatives, like maintaining the Didsbury Museum, which is vital for the town's tourism industry and its ongoing pursuit of heritage preservation.

What town citizens can't ignore is that Didsbury is changing. The recent Statistics Canada 2011 census figures show Didsbury is quickly becoming a favourite destination for senior citizens who want a retirement lifestyle. While this will certainly increase more government, along with some private social services, it does not bode well for future commercial investment or the much-needed tax revenues it would generate.

However, the new census figures also show the population percentage of young working citizens has remained stable. While the oil and gas industry appears to be rebounding this year it is important to remember that could change quickly and working citizens may be forced to look for new employment if and when the economy turns south.

With new businesses coming into the Shantz Crossing development the possibilities and insurance for working citizens will prove to be vital for the town's ongoing sustainability. Of course there is no certainty Wittal's plan will be a bonafide economic bonanza for the town. In fact, Lavigne is already calling it a "white elephant." But it is a plan that has plenty of merit, and a risk well worth taking.

Opinion



Commentary

Tax credits unfair and ineffective

PETER MCCAFFREY

When elected officials propose ideas, they usually sound great on the surface. Their policies have solid aims and their intentions are good. But policies should always be evaluated by their results, not only their intentions.

Whether an idea will work isn't enough. Whether a policy is the best way to achieve a desired outcome is just as important.

The disconnect between ideas and results is demonstrated by the provincial adoption of tax credits.

In the recent Alberta election, the Liberal Party, the NDP and even the ostensibly libertarian Wildrose Party announced plans to reintroduce a Film Tax Credit to Alberta as part of their election platforms.

Tax credits are designed to reduce the financial burden on a particular industry to create jobs and improve living standards for all. They do so by encouraging outside investment into a local economy and provide incentives to existing business to expand.

The theory is sound, but is a tax credit the best way to achieve these aims?

Should we have to bribe particular industries to moving to and setting up shop in a specific place? Surely we should be looking for a more sustainable solution by focusing on creating a place that people want to move to and where they want to set up business.

In contrast to Alberta, the

Saskatchewan Government announced last April that the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit, first introduced in 1998 and expanded in 2006, would be discontinued.

The removal of the tax credit dominated much of the news coverage of the budget announcement, even overshadowing a balanced budget that included major school projects and significant highway spending.

Opposition members jumped at the opportunity to attack the government for "abandoning" the film industry and for the "cultural loss."

The film industry cried doom and gloom, claiming that the plan would kill the entire film industry in Saskatchewan, while news editors indulged them, producing menacing sounding headlines such as "Death blow to Saskatchewan film industry" and "Saskatchewan Film Gets Gouged."

Supporters are now even planning to go door to door in Saskatoon and Regina to collect signatures for a petition to reverse the decision.

Films were made in Saskatchewan before the introduction of the tax credit, so it's hard not to think that the concern might be a little overblown.

Commentators like Simon Enoch from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives complained that the government was cutting a tax credit for something that he likes – the arts – but keeping tax credits for things he doesn't like as much – like the resources industry.

Enoch's attitude illustrates the inherently arbitrary nature of tax credits. They often rest on the whim of politicians who also each have their own individual preferences. Politicians are also often less interested in fair and efficient tax systems and more in pleasing people to support their re-election efforts.

A predictable tax system that doesn't continually change to favour the preferred industries of whatever government is currently in charge would be much more attractive to business as it allows them to plan and invest for the long term.

It also begs the question as to why a government should reduce the cost of doing business for one relatively small and very specialized economic group.

Why not offer equally generous tax credits to all sorts of other industries like the music industry, or the tech industry?

And while we're at it, why not give a tax credit to a variety of corner shops, restaurants and other local businesses? They create jobs too.

In fact, couldn't we cut out the middle man, remove governmental ability to hand out arbitrary favours to their favoured industries and simplify the tax code at the same time, by just giving a tax credit to everything?

If we want every industry to grow and create jobs, why can't everyone receive a tax credit?

We could even just call it a tax cut.

Peter McCaffrey is a policy analyst for the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, fcpp.org.

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Hwy. 2 driver 'lucky to be alive' after crash



Photo courtesy Didsbury RCMP

The driver of this one-ton pickup pulling a gooseneck flat deck trailer defied the odds during an accident last week.

BY JOHNNIE BACHUSKY
Review Staff

An Okotoks man is lucky to be alive after he succumbed to a medical condition while driving his company pickup truck and the vehicle lost control on the Queen Elizabeth II Highway (QEII), narrowing missing oncoming traffic.

"It is a case where he missed oncoming traffic," said Didsbury Cpl. Warren Wright. "He is lucky to be

alive. He definitely had his guardian angels watching over him that day."

Wright said at about 11:30 a.m. on June 7, Didsbury RCMP, Didsbury Fire Department, provincial EMS, and Red Deer Traffic Services were dispatched to a motor vehicle accident north of the Didsbury overpass on the QEII.

A one-ton pickup pulling a gooseneck flat deck trailer was northbound on the QEII when it entered the centre median, said

Wright.

He added the vehicle went through the cable barrier, continued westbound across the two southbound lanes, through the west ditch, and through a barbed wire fence and onto the service road. Wright said the trailer whipped around so that the whole unit faced east.

He said the truck itself was still on the surface of the service road facing east but the trailer was hung up in the west ditch of the service road. The

transmission was still in gear and burned the rear dual wheels down to their steel belts, said Wright.

He said the 21-year-old driver did not appear injured from the collision. He was taken to Didsbury Hospital and quickly released.

RCMP said alcohol and road conditions were not a factor. Mounties said they suspect a medical condition may have been responsible. No charges have been laid in connection to the accident.

Scam continues

BY JOHNNIE BACHUSKY
Review Staff

RCMP continue to warn the public to be careful with telephone "grandparent scammers" who are calling local citizens with the intent to commit fraud.

In the afternoon of June 5, a Didsbury woman was contacted by a man identifying himself as Walter Green, who was calling from Quebec.

He told the woman her granddaughter was in an accident, had a broken nose and was in jail. The suspect then pleaded with her to wire him \$2,450 bail money to get the granddaughter out of jail.

The targeted Didsbury woman then confirmed her granddaughter was safe at

work in Alberta and refused to wire any money. The matter was reported to the RCMP and the force's Anti Fraud Unit.

In the same afternoon, another Didsbury area woman was called by a man with the same fraud scam. This time the intended victim was told her grandson was in a Quebec jail. The fraudster said he needed \$1,600 wired to him to bail the grandson out.

The woman quickly wired the money to Westmount, Quebec before she realized it was a scam. It was then reported to RCMP later that afternoon.

Didsbury RCMP Cpl. Warren Wright is advising residents to ensure their privacy settings on their computers are secure.



MAKING MUSIC - The Westglen School Grade 5 band performs Star Wars during a concert held at the school last Tuesday.

Noel West/Didsbury Review

TOWN OF DIDSBURY

PUBLIC MEETINGS

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, June 26 at 7:00 pm

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING: Tuesday, June 12 at 7:00 pm

MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION: Wednesday, June 13 at 4:30 pm

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in Council Chambers at the Town Office.

Didsbury Community Pride 2012

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Block Party

June 15, 2012 at 5:30 pm

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The Town of Didsbury will no longer sell the kitchen compost bins and bags.

Similar products can be purchased at Didsbury AG Foods and Home Hardware.

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Friday, June 15, 2012 for an all-staff meeting.

Public Notice

Be advised that 20 Street will be CLOSED to traffic on:

Friday, June 15
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Aquatic Centre and Arena 403.335.7369

ROLLOUT CART PICK UP SCHEDULE

	June	July
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Green Bin	12, 13, 26, 27	10, 11, 24, 25

NEW DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Development Permits have been issued for the following proposed developments:

DP 12-34 106 Westridge Place Deck - replace and enlarge R1

Further information may be obtained at the Town Office, 2037 - 19 Avenue or by calling 403.335.3391. Persons wishing to appeal any of these decisions must do so in writing, with the appropriate fees, to the Secretary, Development Appeal Board, prior to 4:30 pm Tuesday, June 26, 2012.

Dani Woodman - Development Officer

Celebrate with ATCO Gas!

100 years of heating homes and warming communities in Alberta!
Join us on Tuesday July 10 from 4:30 to 7:00 pm at the Didsbury Memorial Complex!

Free Live Theatre

Community BBQ

Childrens Activities

ATCO Blue Flame Kitchen prizes

Variety Show at 6:00 pm

For more information and to enter to win home heating for a year, visit www.atcogas.com.

Enjoy the special offers and activities that are happening as part of the 2012 Didsbury Choosewell Challenge!

Try out the lap swim challenge for a chance to be eligible for prizes! There will also be \$3.00 adult swims and boot camp classes every Tuesday for the entire month of June!

For more information regarding the Choosewell Challenge call 403.335.7369.

DIDSBURY CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Interested in becoming a member of the Didsbury Cemetery Committee?? Call the Town Office at 403.335.3391 for more information.

COUNCIL'S INFORMATION UPDATE TO DIDSBURY RESIDENTS

In order to better inform residents as to the real situation in Didsbury regarding debt, infrastructure and where tax dollars are being spent, please take a moment to review this article submitted by Mayor Brian Wittal.

Reasons for higher taxes in Didsbury started many years ago when a decision to build the swimming pool was made. This decision put the residents of Didsbury in a long-term high tax situation.

The cost of building the pool wasn't the nemesis as much as the ongoing yearly operational costs that have hurt the tax payers of Didsbury. The current yearly operational deficit for the pool is \$350,000.00 to \$400,000.00. Take that deficit over the last 20 years (\$6 to \$8M) and you have a substantial amount of tax dollars going toward one facility in this community, which could have gone to many different projects over those years, such as infrastructure upgrades.

The Council of the day increased taxes to pay for the loan to build the pool and then decided to keep taxes low after that so not to upset residents. This resulted in a lot of the available tax dollars going towards the operations of the Pool. Unfortunately, every year of low tax increases (below inflation) meant that more tax dollars had to go towards the pool. Consequently, very little other maintenance and repairs were done in Town for a number of years. Another real concern was the fact that little to NO reserve funds were being set aside over that time for the Town to have as a safety net if a major fix or repair was needed.

When I came on Council in 2004, the Town had a total of \$24,000.00 in reserves. Then in the mid 90's a new sewer lagoon storage cell was gravely needed and the Town was forced to take on debt to build this cell on land east of Didsbury. This put the Town in a position where they were very near to their provincially regulated debt limit, resulting in the Town being red-circled by Municipal Affairs as a community of concern.

Unfortunately, due to structural concerns of this storage cell which only became evident over the last 6 years, we are not able to utilize this cell to maximum capacity so now we must repair it as part of our lagoon expansion project that is planned to begin in 2013. This is a major expense that was not anticipated, but needs to be addressed very quickly. We are still making debt payments on the loan for that storage cell taken out in 1994. Other reasons taxes have been increasing over the past few years include the costs of products such as gravel, asphalt, cement, steel, etc. These items are needed to build and maintain our infrastructure and their costs rise aggressively when we go through economic cycles, like what is happening again in Alberta right now because of all of the construction demand. Further, the Town needs to start building reserves and putting more monies towards replacement and maintenance of streets, sidewalks, utilities and facilities that had been delayed or ignored previously.

These are the facts and realities that Council of today must address and is why Council decided to slowly graduate the taxes over a number of years. We need to address debt limits and increase reserves while at the same time, try to put more monies into infrastructure replacement. To do this without significant tax hikes meant a slow process of building up funds for replacement and maintenance, resulting in the ability to ramp up needed repairs. In the Municipal world it is better to take on long-term debt for major projects in order to help spread the debt load out so that future residents also pay a portion of those loans for services or facilities they will be using. That way, current residents don't get hit with the total costs up front for something that may have a 20 to 50 year life expectancy. Council and Administration have worked hard the past few years to reduce our overall expenses in an effort to put more monies back into the budget for maintenance and/or into reserves, with building up reserves being our primary focus. Today, we are sitting with just over \$1M in reserves.

In 2009 the Province instituted the Tangible Capital Asset (TCA) program that required all municipalities to inventory and value all assets - from gravel, to pipes in the ground, to arenas. Those assets then had to be depreciated over their life expectancy. This would then give the Municipality an accurate annual depreciated cost of assets which would help them better understand how fast infrastructure wears out, when they should be replaced and the dollars needed to do that. In Didsbury, our annual depreciated value of assets is around \$1.5M. In reality this is telling us that we should be putting \$1.5M into reserves every year in order to replace assets once they hit their life expectancy. We are currently trying to put away between \$200 and \$300K a year into reserves, which is nowhere near what should be put away according to TCA. This leads us back to the fact that previous Councils did not take this into consideration and set aside reserves for the future, so now the current Council is forced to address these major infrastructure deficits. The only way it

will be managed long-term is by coming up with new tax revenues to help pay for the overdue maintenance and replacement of assets.

The best way to minimize residential property tax increases is to get more businesses into town to help offset the imbalance we have. Currently, 89% of taxes in Didsbury come from residential properties and 11% from Commercial/Industrial. Statistics and reports from the Province show that in order for a community to be sustainable in the long-term, it is very important to build up the commercial/industrial tax base, and not rely on the residential tax base because as these reports show, residential taxes do not cover the cost to supply the services that a municipality demands. A healthy tax base would reflect 70% residential and 30% commercial/industrial.

Provincial reports show that on average, it costs a municipality approximately \$1.15 for every \$1.00 in taxes we collect to provide services to residential tax payers they demand, and it only costs about \$0.80 for every \$1.00 of taxes we collect to provide services to commercial and industrial business. In order to survive long-term and not rely on its residential tax base, it is imperative for any municipality to build up its commercial/industrial tax base because as these reports show residential taxes do not cover the cost to supply the services that are demanded in a municipality.

The top priority of today's Council is to do whatever we can to improve that taxation ratio imbalance for the good of the Town and the residents.

A couple of years ago Council openly discussed options regarding the operations of the pool because a major upgrade to its heating and ventilation system (\$300,000.00+) was necessary. One of those options included closing the pool down completely and when that hit the newspaper we were inundated with calls and emails telling Council we had better NOT ever consider doing that, so the decision to keep the pool open and upgrade the HVAC were made, which meant more years of running the facility at a deficit for the taxpayers of Didsbury to pay for. Administration is working hard to promote the facility and maximize its usage, but we will never get close to a break-even scenario in a small Town like ours. As a note, the pool in Olds runs an annual deficit of about \$700,000.00. Recreation facilities in small towns rarely, if ever, run without an operational deficit. In order to cover those deficits, user fees would need to be higher than most people could afford which would result in limited use of the facilities. So what is the right answer???

This leads directly to roads and sidewalks, as the deferral of repairs over the years has led to a real concern as to how the town can afford to fix and repair this old infrastructure. Unless the Town can generate new revenue sources, with the most obvious source being to attract new businesses to town to generate new tax revenues, we will not be able to do all of the repairs that will be required over the next 20 years. If there is no new tax revenue the only option is to continue to increase taxes to the residents to pay for all of these repairs as things continue to age. Another possible option is to try to get the Provincial and Federal governments to distribute more monies for infrastructure, which is a discussion we have with them every time we have the opportunity. The Town has a long term capital replacement plan for roads and sidewalks that is based on the age of the infrastructure and the current life expectancy. Unfortunately, many of the roads that need pavement repair also need major underground replacement and it doesn't make sense to put on new pavement only to rip it up in 2 or 3 years to replace the underground piping. We can't afford to be re-paving after only a few years! So in order to do it right, we want to do complete repairs to our roads from underground pipes to pavement and sidewalks all at once, a block at a time, when we can afford to. At the current costs of replacement we are not going to get very far with our current budgets unless we find new revenues or grants to help pay for these needed repairs.

This is the key reason why Council made the decision to move forward with Shantz Crossing. We (the Town) worked with the previous owner of the CMI lands (now Shantz Crossing) to help find a developer for those lands after he decided not to go forward with their own plans to build a gypsum plant on the land. A note of relevance: earlier the Town, in agreement with CMI, had run water and sewer services to the edge of this property and there was a bill for \$700,000.00 owed to the Town by CMI for this servicing. Over the past 4 years, we talked to three different developers about these lands and none of them wanted to take on a project like this because it would take too long for them to realize a profit as they felt it would take 5 to 10 years to sell all the lands after development. Two of the developers said they might consider the project if the Town were to write off the \$700,000.00 servicing costs. The Town responded NO! We were not prepared to have tax payers take the hit and write off monies owed so that a developer can just turn around and sell serviced lands and put the monies in their pockets.

The landowner then approached the Town with an offer to finance the sale of the lands to the Town over 15 years or to

be paid back as the lands sell once they are developed. He was liquidating business assets for retirement and if he could sell the lands to the Town it would allow him to use some tax loss write-offs available in Canada to his benefit, so that is why he was offering to finance the lands with the Town. If he didn't sell the lands, he would hold onto them for 5 to 10 more years and liquidate his business interests in the US first. As these are the only commercial/industrial lands available in Didsbury that have services to the property line, Council did not want to see them sit vacant for another 5 to 10 years. That would have meant NO opportunity for Commercial or Industrial growth for Didsbury for a very long time. So all things considered, Council decided to enter into a land purchase agreement with the landowner. Council believed it would be better for the Town to control the development of the lands as we could then recover the outstanding servicing costs instead of giving that value away to a developer to profit on. We also felt the Town would have better control of what businesses would be allowed to build in Shantz Crossing as opposed to a developer who could simply sell the land to someone to use as a storage yard, resulting in little or no development, which wouldn't benefit the Town or its residents as it wouldn't generate much tax revenue.

Another component of this project is the storm water pond (not a sewer lagoon). After completing our \$6M North Industrial Storm/Wetlands Ponds project last year which is located north of the ball diamonds in Memorial Park, we were under budget by approximately \$500,000.00. Those funds were Provincial and Federal grant monies that the Town would have to return as they were not going to be used for the wetlands project. We were able to get permission from both levels of government to use the extra funds to develop storm water ponds in Shantz Crossing as they tie into the original wetlands project. This allowed the Town to develop the storm ponds in Shantz Crossing with grant funding, which means our overall costs for the project are \$500,000.00 less than if we had to finance the project ourselves. This also means we can be more aggressive on our land prices, making the business park more attractive to prospective businesses. These funds had to be committed to a project or spent before the end of this summer, otherwise the Town would have to return them to the two levels of government which again, was another reason Council felt it was prudent to move forward with the project in its entirety - to maximize on the dollars we could get from government grants.

Regarding the finances of the Town: According to Provincial regulations under the Municipal Government Act (MGA), the borrowing limit for Didsbury is set at just over \$12M. Our current debt level is just over \$8M or 66% of our limit. We are retiring old double-digit interest rate debt off at the rate of \$1M+ per year.

In order to come up with the capital required to fix and replace assets, the Town is going to have to continue to re-borrow funds as we pay old debt off because we have limited reserves to draw from. Council believes that we need to first bring in new tax revenues from new businesses in Shantz Crossing because those revenues will allow us to do smaller projects or make payments on new monies borrowed to complete major projects. Now is the best time to be borrowing when you can get low interest rates over a long term. This will spread the cost of the project out over the long term, reducing finance charges.

The Town financials are audited every year by an independent auditing firm as is required under the MGA. This process verifies to both Council and town residents that the finances of the Town are being recorded properly and that tax dollars are being spent appropriately according to Councils direction through the setting of the Strategic plan and the approval of the annual budget. According to the auditor's report, the financial statements of the Town accurately reflect the Town's current financial position!

These are the realities of the situation in Didsbury. These are the issues that Councils over the past years have been trying to address and correct. Yes, it has meant an increase in taxes in order to get our house in order and yes, some risks have been taken to create a better future for Didsbury. Council believes these are the right moves.

When you review the Provincial governments Financial Indicator Reports that compare Didsbury to other communities in Alberta of similar size, you will see that our taxes are right at the 50% mark, right in the middle of the pack. You can't compare Didsbury to larger centres such as Calgary as we provide services and facilities to about 5,000 people and they provide services to significantly more than that, making their usage and ability to pay for those facilities far greater.

Council holds a yearly retreat in the fall to discuss plans, set priorities and direction for the upcoming year and beyond. Council will be asking for resident's feedback regarding their future vision for Didsbury prior this year's retreat so please make sure you take the time to give your input.

Regards, Mayor Brian Wittal

Didsbury Library New Books

Adult Fiction

"Fifty Shades of Grey - Trilogy" by E.L. James, "Stolen Prey" by John Stanford, "The Columbus Affair" by Steve Berry, "Calling Invisible Women" by Jeanne Ray.

Adult Non-Fiction


"Beyond The Sling" by Mayim Bialik, "Elizabeth the Queen" by Sally Bedell, "The Language God Talks" by Herman Wouk, "Chimps Of Fauna Sanctuary" by Andrew Westoll.

Teens

"13 to Life" by Shannon Delaney, "Ascend" by Amanda Hocking, "Chomp" by Carl Hiaasen, "Delirium" by Lauren Oliver.

Kids

"Star Wars, A Scanimation Book" and "The Wizard Of Oz, A Scanimation Book" by Rufus Butler Seder.



Around Town

with the Didsbury Library

Tuesday, June 12

Mountain View Christian Women's Breakfast, Tuesday, June 12 9:30 - 11:30 AM at Didsbury Lutheran Church Gym, 1500-23rd St. Featuring "Travel Alberta", special music and speaker.

Cost is \$6.00. For reservations phone Ann at 403-335-8444. Come and bring a friend. Free babysitting.

Wednesday, June 13

Five-O-Club Wind Up Dinner. Wednesday, June 13 starting at 4:30 pm. Food supplied for members and guests.

Friday, June 15

Didsbury Community Pride Street Party & Dance will take place along 20th Street from 18th Avenue to 19th Avenue from 5:30 to 9:30. Sidewalk sales, music, fun and games. The Library will also be participating.

Saturday, June 23

1:30 - 4pm. eBook and eReader workshops at the Library. Registration required. Free to attend any or all of the sessions. Learn how you can download eBooks from your local library for free onto your eReading device!

1:30 - 2:00 eBooks on Ebsco
2:00 - 2:30: eBooks on Freading
2:30 - 3:00: eReaders - Kobo Touch and Sony Touch
3:00 - 3:30: eReaders - iPad and Kobo Vox
3:30 - 4:00: eAudiobooks - iPods, other Apple devices

Help Didsbury Library beat Olds Library in THE GREAT PENNY RACE! The Canadian Mint rolled out its last penny recently but they still count as currency and WE want them! Each penny donated will be matched by the Community Spirit Grant. Bring all your old pennies to the library (they don't need to be rolled) and we'll put them in our big penny jar. Proceeds go towards author talks and other events.

Promote your events in this column. Send info to didsburylibrary@lils.prl.ab.ca or drop off copy at Didsbury Library 2033 19 Ave.



myCommunity
Neighbours Indeed

Who do you know... that is celebrating any of these special events? • Birth of a child • Wedding • Special Anniversary: 25, 40, 50, 60, etc.

A special **KEEPSAKE GIFT** is available compliments of the following community-minded business and professional people:
Mountain View Publishing / Didsbury Review
Contemporary Graphics
AG Foods
Front Porch Realty
Didsbury Value Drug Mart

Phone Linda Neufeld 403-335-4089

Community Resources

This is a free community event listing service, sponsored by area businesses, provided to non-profit organizations or local community groups. Listing is free to any non-profit organization or community group in the Didsbury Review distribution area. While every effort will be made to ensure each request for publication is granted, the Didsbury Review does

NOT GUARANTEE publication for a variety of reasons including space constraints. To try and accommodate as many requests as possible, please keep submissions to 20 words or less. Please have your submissions in at least two weeks prior to the date of the event you are publicizing.

HALL RENTALS:

ROSEBUD HALL RENTALS. Call 403-335-9945 or 403-335-4606.

RUGBY HALL RENTALS Call Della @ 403-335-8767, for meetings, family events or reunions.

5-0 CLUB HALL RENTALS. For Hall rentals and/or info regarding the hall please call Joyce Gee 403-335-2861.

DIDSBURY ELKS HALL RENTALS. Call Shelley Fakir 403-335-9213.

ST. CYPRIAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL RENTALS contact Myrna Watt 403-335-3745.

LONE PINE HALL HALL, which is located east of Didsbury, contact Jo-Anne Hannah at 403-335-4190 for rental information.

MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY HALL. For meetings, community events, family or group reunions call Sharon 403-335-4288.

FALLEN TIMBER COMMUNITY HALL offers an ideal place for quiet safety meetings or fabulous social activities. Please contact Esther McMullen for information at 403-637-2270.

DIDSBURY ROYAL PURPLE #317 - Regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., 2nd Wednesday of each month. For info call Irene Collinge 403-335-4589

ALANON - For family and friends of alcoholics. Alice 403-556-5911, Reg 403-337-3762.

DIDSBURY AND AREA SUPPORT GROUP - for friends and families of people with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. Join us the last Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m. Aspen Ridge Lodge, 1100 - 20 Ave., Didsbury. 403-335-9848. Dolina Watson, 403-335-7285.

DIDSBURY & DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES AUXILIARY - monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in Unit 4 at the hospital.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS - 12-Step group for Compulsive Overeaters meets on Thursdays at 7 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church, 130 Albert St., Airdrie. For more information call Deb at 403-948-0563 or Frankie at 403-335-3633.

3025 RCACC DIDSBURY ARMY CADETS - Youth 12-18 Monday 6:30 - 9:30. Downstairs Victoria Square Mall 403-559-8801.

ADULT HALL WALKING - at Westglen School from 6:30pm to 7:30pm from Monday to Friday. Please wear clean dry shoes. For more information call Cindy at 403-335-9437.

DIDSBURY MUSEUM - Open 10 a.m. - 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tues and Wed.; Sat. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. By appointment: Jim 403-335-0003 or Shirley 403-335-3277

DIDSBURY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY BUS. - Call Jan to book your trip. 403-335-3052. Competent drivers.

DIDSBURY YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE'S - meetings are held the

first Monday of each month. All persons interested in volunteering and helping to work with the youth in our community are encouraged to come. For location and time please call 403-335-1975.

MIDWAY COMMUNITY WALKERS - Midway School will be open to anyone that would like to walk inside for exercise without the winter elements. Open every school day 7:30-8:30am. For more info call 403-337-2888.

PARENT LINK CENTER - Drop in play. FREE Playtime for Parents and Preschoolers (newborn to 6 yrs). Morning, afternoon and evening playtimes available at Didsbury Neighbourhood Place, Bay 2, 2030 17 Ave. Contact Linda 403-586-5466

DIDSBURY ELKS LODGE - supper meetings every 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Supper at 7:00 p.m. meeting at 8:00 p.m. Call 403-335-4655.

SUPPER INVITATION - The Didsbury Lions Club welcomes men & lady visitors at their supper meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:45 p.m. at the 5-0 Club. For information and to RSVP call 403-335-9173 or 403-335-4796.

DIDSBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACE - is a resource centre for the down, we provide information and referral services, community programming, FCSS, resource lending library and meeting space available for rent. Please call 403-335-8719.

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA - For fun, friendship and adventure for girls and women of all ages! Join anytime. Leaders are needed for all units, no experience necessary. Ages: Sparks 5/6; Brownies 7/8; Guides 9 - 11; Pathfinders 12 - 14; rangers 15 & up. Call Karen 403-556-6881 for more information.

FRIDAYS - CRIBBAGE STARTS - at the Elks Hall - 7:00 p.m.

HUNTINGTONS - Are you or someone you love affected by HD? I am looking to start up a support group in the Didsbury area. If you are interested contact Kim Rauhaia 403-335-9520.

BRING OUT THE BEST IN KIDS! Mountain View Optimists meets Tuesdays 7:30 pm at Sandy's in Olds. mountainviewoptimists@gmail.com

DIDSBURY AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP - Fridays at 8:30 at the Know United Church, 1406-19 Ave. Suzanne 403-337-3033 or Jennifer 403-335-8388

OUTLAWS 4-H HORSE CLUB is collecting used batteries. For info contact: 403-507-9242

MOUNTAIN VIEW CHORALERS are back for another season. If you like to sing, join us Monday evening at 7 p.m. at the 5/0 Club.

WELCOME TO THE 2012 SENIORS CELEBRATION!!!! Honoring Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee with a Touch of Royalty! Thursday, June 14th - 1:30pm. Memorial Complex MPR. Entertainment- Dorr Prizes- Refreshments- FREE!!!

23-24

Church Directory

The REVIEW is pleased to provide this Church Directory as a community service

Bergthal Mennonite Church

Didsbury, Alberta
5km S of the Didsbury Overpass,
8km E on Bergthal Rd.
Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
Pastor: Mike Nimz
For more information ph. - 403-335-4451

Knox United Didsbury

1406 - 19th Avenue 403-335-8373
Join us for worship 10 a.m. Sundays,
With Sunday School for children
For more information go to
www.knox-united.com.
People make the place!
Rev. Liz Bowyer- Intentional Interim Minister

Chinook Winds Christian Centre

1710 - 14th Street Didsbury
SUNDAY CELEBRATION - 10 a.m.
Dynamic Worship and Bible Teaching
for the whole family
Senior Pastors: Richard & Beth Kope
Associate Pastors: Corey & Erin Kope
Serving families in our community since 1984
Members of Ministers Fellowship International
Call us for weekly activities
Ph/Fx: 335-3551 email: cwcc@airnet.net

St. Anthony's Catholic

2030 - 24 Ave. Didsbury
For more information please contact
Catholic Women's League:
Maxine Moreau 403-335-4948
Knights of Columbus:
Gary McNeil 403-335-8611
Olds St. Steven's Office
403-556-3084

Redeemer Lutheran Lutheran Church Canada

1500 - 23 ST. • Rev. Robert Mohs
Church: 403-335-3161 / Res: 403-335-3656
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. • Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Study Sunday - 9:30 a.m.
Holy Communion 1 & 3 Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Jr. & Sr. Youth, Women's & Seniors' Ministry Group
Small Group Bible Study meetings
throughout the week.

Mountain View Evangelical Missionary Church

14 km East of Didsbury Pastor Art Numan
Office: 403-335-4422
Morning Worship 11 a.m. • Sunday School 10 a.m.
For information concerning the weekly activities
please call the Church Office.

Anglican Church of Canada

St. Cyprian's
2037 - 24th Ave. Didsbury - 403-335-4664
Rector - David Asher
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion - 2nd & 4th Sunday each month

West Zion Mennonite Church

South of Didsbury to sign - West 1.5 miles
Pastor Trevor Kriaka, info - 403-337-2020
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Nursery available during service
EVERYONE WELCOME!

Zion Evangelical

Missionary Church
Corner Hwy. 582 & 20th Avenue
Phone: 403-335-3629 web www.zemc.org
Mike Morgan, Senior Pastor
Colin Creighton, Associate Pastor
(Global Connections & Youth)
Alison Lefebvre, Director of Youth Ministries
Christine Little, Director of Children's Ministries
Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday service at 10:45 ...
... with separate programs for children
up to Grade 6

SEE YOU IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

Shop the **Wheel** into Summer Booklet

WIN \$50,000 IN PRIZES TO BE WON

WIN 1 TO 3 WEEKLY PRIZES OF \$1000

AT EACH OF OURS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

Mon - Fri - 8 am - 9 pm • Sat, Sun & Holidays - 8 am - 6 pm

DIDSBURY 403-335-9595 Free Delivery on Monday, Wednesday & Friday Only

Mix OR Match

Strawberries
California Growers, #1 Grade 1 lb. \$2.99
OR
Blueberries
New Crop, California Growers, #1 Grade, 6 oz. \$2.99
OR
Raspberries
New Crop, California Growers, #1 Grade, 6 oz. \$2.99
OR
Blackberries
New Crop, California Growers, #1 Grade, 6 oz. \$2.99

Breyers

Family Classic
Frozen Dessert, Selected
Varieties 1.66 litre

3.98

Extra Lean
Ground Beef
Value Pack, kg. 6.57

2.98
lb

Montreal Style
Corned Beef

1.88
Per 100 g

Canadian
Harvest
Grain Bread
or Alpie

2.40

2.50

Fyten eager to turn hockey heads in Camrose

Young female hockey player vows to make final cut on Alberta U-18 team

BY JOHNNIE BACHUSKY
Review Staff

Caitlin Fyten is now a member of the sweet 16 group. But that is not good enough.

The young rising area hockey player is aiming for the final six. And most importantly, it is her chance to make things right for herself.

Fyten is a 17-year-old defenceman who missed the final cut by the narrowest of margins at last year's Team Alberta Female U-18 Summer Provincial Camp.

Next month, from July 10 to 15 in Camrose, she is trying again. This time she is determined to go all the way in making the provin-

cial team.

"I was one of the last three to get cut," said Fyten, who was raised on a horse and cattle ranch between Sundre and Cremona, about a 40-minute drive west of Didsbury. "It is very important to me. It is what we work for all year."

"I have a point to make," added Fyten, who is a Grade 11 student at Edge School, a sports-focused private institution in Springbank, a rural community west of Calgary. "I want to prove to myself I'm good enough. I would love to represent the province."

There are a total of 46 players from across the province, including Fyten,

Innisfail's Taryn Baumgardt and Olds' Krista Wilson, who have been invited to the Camrose summer camp. After the July summer camp, a selected group of players will be chosen to compete at a fall selection camp in September. Players will be shortlisted and scouted through the start of the club team season until the final Team Alberta roster is named that will compete at the 2012 National Women's Under-18 Championship which is being held Nov. 7 through 11 in Dawson Creek, B.C.

Last year Team Alberta finished in seventh place.

Fyten, who stands 5 feet

7 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds, is currently a member of the Edge Mountaineers women's hockey team, which is one of 10 squads, five from Canada and five from the United States, in the Junior Women's Hockey League.

She describes her style of play on the blue line as traditional, taking care of the d-zone first but willing to jump into the offensive zone when given the chance.

Fyten said she was happy with her play last year, considering she entered the season with four graduating defencemen on her team.

"I wasn't sure how much ice time I would get but I did get lots of it. I really enjoyed it," said Fyten.

She is determined to go to the Camrose camp in great shape. With the previous experience from last year it will go a long way in having an extra edge when competing against the other women.

"I know what to expect. I know the schedule. It will be a hard week. It is physically and emotionally draining," she said. "I know they are tough on us. They push us. I know they want to see how far they can push us."

"I have been working all season for this," said Fyten. "I have to be prepared."

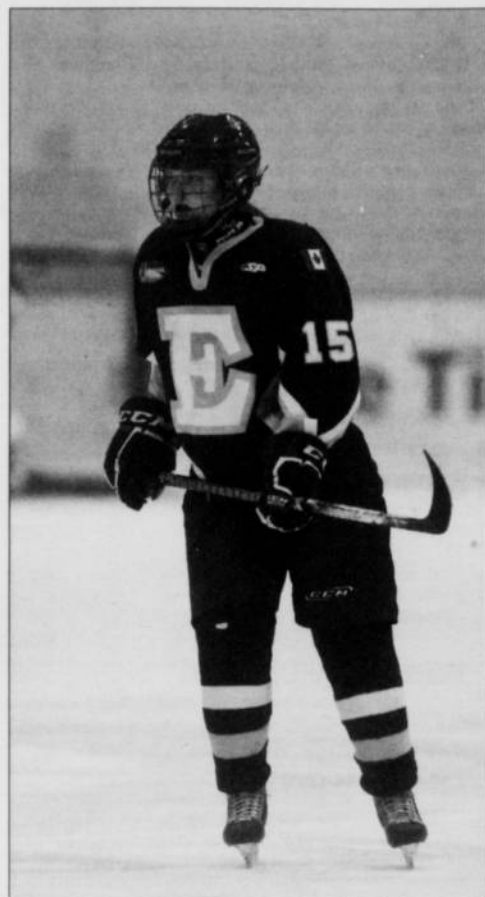


Photo contributed

Caitlin Fyten has been invited to the Team Alberta Female U-18 Summer Provincial Camp.

Attaboy Don & Duffy.



Don & Duffy (standing)
Don's Barber Shop, Fort MacLeod

Don and Duffy will tell you ... Albertans are some of the hardest working people and among the best in the world at recycling. In fact, we've recycled over 4 million TVs and computers, over 8 million litres of paint and 70 million tires to date. **It's just one more thing we can be proud of.**

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When: 6-7 pm every Tuesday from

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Where: Meet at the Aquatic Centre and
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Pre-registration is required

Registration & information packages are available

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contact Jolene at 403-335-8719

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Kids win parade rides by colouring the town

BY JOHNNIE BACHUSKY
Review Staff

The town was coloured in a big way this month. And four Ross Ford Elementary School students have emerged as the big colouring winners.

The first annual Colour the Town of Didsbury competition featured the participation of more than 400 Ross Ford school students.

The initiative was triggered by the Didsbury Elks and Royal Purple clubs as another way to give back to the community, and it was also a means to incorporate the children in the annual August parade.

"This year, I as parade chairman, decided to interject a bit more and decided to hold the competition and that the winners would receive a ride in a police car, ambulance and fire truck on the day of the parade," said Peter Winsor, the Didsbury Elks' Lecturing Knight. "The parade is running so

smoothly every year we found more time to give back to the community.

"We had a representative from each service pick the winners. That was held at Elks Hall on June 1," he added.

The three winners of the inaugural competition are Isabella Watson, an eight-year-old Grade 2 student, Amber Hornbrook, a nine-year-old Grade 4 student and Lienke le Roux, a nine-year-old Grade 3 student. The runner-up was Jesse Rylance, an eight-year-old Grade 2 student. The four students all received gift baskets and certificates on June 3.

"The reason we have a runner-up is because the judges truly believed Jesse had deserved to win based on effort on his work, the same as the three winners," said Winsor. "But because we only have three emergency services Jesse was awarded a runner-up position and was also given a gift basket and certificate."

The drawings by the four students are now displayed on the front door of Didsbury's Elks Hall. All four winners will

meet with Alberta Lt.-Gov. Donald S. Ethell immediately following the annual parade, which is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 18.

The event also featured the participation and cooperation of representatives from Chinook's Edge School Division, Didsbury RCMP, local EMS personnel and the Didsbury Fire Department.

The Elks and Royal Purple clubs organize and run the Didsbury parade. The membership in the Didsbury Elks is about 80 while the Royal Purple has about 40. There are eight members on the parade committee.



Photo submitted

The three winners of the first annual Colour the Town of Didsbury competition (front row left to right) are Isabella Watson, an eight-year-old Grade 2 student, Amber Hornbrook, a nine-year-old Grade 4 student and Lienke le Roux, a nine-year-old Grade 3 student.

Police Briefs

BY JOHNNIE BACHUSKY
Review Staff

Fraud and theft in Carstairs

A Carstairs man was offered an ATV to purchase but his suspicions led him to contact RCMP.

At about 11:30 a.m. on June 2 the man contacted the Didsbury RCMP after an ATV had been offered to him for sale, and he considered purchasing it.

He then queried the ATV's Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) with the publicly accessible Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) website, and deter-

mined the ATV may have been stolen.

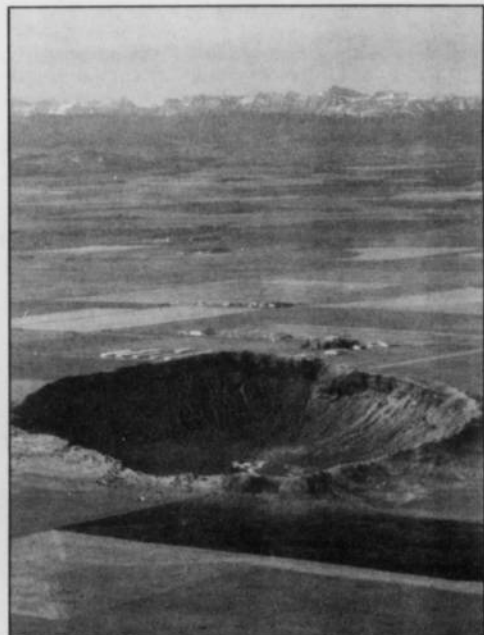
Didsbury RCMP were able to confirm the ATV was stolen. The matter is still under investigation.

Gas and dash

At about 10:15 a.m. on June 3, there was a gas and dash incident reported from a gas station convenience store on 10th Avenue in Carstairs.

RCMP said two young men in a stolen 2006 white GMC half-ton pickup, stolen from Crossfield earlier that morning, pulled up to the pumps. Police said the two men helped themselves to \$75.45 worth of gas, and then drove away without paying.

The stolen vehicle was later located at a rural property near Acme. RCMP are still investigating.



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Thursday, June 14 - 1:30pm

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Colour/foils must be prior to June 28.

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J.P. Foster hands Heath Weiss another screw to bolt the new tot playground equipment together while Margaret Mierke refers to the instructions. Society volunteers, as well as one passerby who stopped to help, erected the playground equipment on a rainy Saturday in recent weeks.

Park

Continued from page 1

At around the same time she read a newspaper article about a woman in Cremona who initiated a \$30,000 fundraising project to build a toddler park in her village.

"After reading her story I thought that was something I could do," said Hopfe. "I contacted her, did research and talked to the town. I was given permission by the town to form the society."

She then approached

four other young mothers in town and they spent last summer getting organized and preparing the scope of the project. The women then presented a report to town council and it was approved.

The cost of the project will be about \$40,000. The society is paying the entire bill through fundraising. So far they have raised about half that amount. The society has already paid the deposits for all equipment.

"We are hoping to have the remaining


funds raised by the end of June," said Hopfe.

Meanwhile, the town has contributed about \$5,000 to the project for wood chip surfacing.

Following the grand opening this Friday (June 15) the society is hosting a June 22 fundraiser called "Movie for the Park" at Zion Church. The event will be held at 7 p.m. The society is asking citizens to contribute \$5 for families attending. There will be a concession and door prizes.

100. Obituaries
100. Obituaries

WILSON, Norma
1931 - 2012



Norma Maude Wilson (nee Rigsby) of Cremona passed away at the Didsbury Hospital on June 5, 2012 at the age of 80 years. Norma was born in Didsbury on August 27th, 1931 and grew up in the Cremona / Big Prairie district, graduating from Cremona High School. On July 28th, 1950, Norma married Gordon Wilson and together they worked on their farm west of Cremona and raised three children, Donald, Brian and Kathy. In 1995, Norma and Gordon retired to Cremona and participated in many Gold and Silver and community activities. Norma will be especially missed by her good friend Jack Eby and lovingly remembered by her two sons Donald (Deb) of Didsbury, Brian (Terry) of Crossfield; one daughter Kathy (Mark) McLaughlin of Ottawa; four grandchildren Darcy Wilson, Sherry (Don) Morrish, Tara VanMaarion, Brad Wilson (Leann) and five great-grandchildren Madison, Brandon, Courtney, Andrea and Anthony. Also to cherish Norma's memory are numerous other family members and many friends made over the years. Norma was predeceased by husband Gordon in 2006; her parents William and Maude; three brothers Gerald, Elwood, Neil and three sisters Shirley, Audrey, Eileen. A Celebration of Norma's life has been held. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made directly to Heart & Stoke Foundation of Alberta, 202, 5913 - 50 Avenue, Red Deer AB T4N 4C4 or to the Canadian Diabetes Association, 6, 5015 - 48 Avenue, Red Deer AB T4N 1S9. Condolences to Norma's family may be emailed to meaningfulememorials@yahoo.ca.

MEANINGFUL MEMORIALS
Red Deer, 587-876-4944.

110. In Memoriam
110. In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Roy Howden
Who passed away
June 27, 2005


*We often think of bygone days
When we were all together
The family chain is broken now
But memories last forever*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by
Molly (Wife), Wayne & Mary, Vivian, Mark,
Darrel & Sherry and family*

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100. Obituaries
100. Obituaries

GOOD, Phyllis Irene



Phyllis Irene Good of Didsbury passed away peacefully on June 4, 2012 at the age of 94 years. Phyllis was born in Pontllanfraith, Wales on December 19, 1917. She moved with her family to Carstairs from Wales at the age of 9. All her life she remembered how rough the sea trip was and could not understand why anyone would want to intentionally take a cruise. Phyllis was a faithful member of the West Zion Mennonite Church all her life. Two of her greatest joys were music and babies. Whether singing at programs in the one-room schoolhouse, duets at weddings and funerals or singing at home, this made Phyllis her happiest. She enjoyed looking after newborn babies and was proud of the fact that she was a foster parent for over 30 newborns both in Alberta and Ontario. As a grandmother, she was young at heart and was always interested in the grandchildren's activities. Her last years were spent at the Aspen Ridge Lodge where her sense of humour was enjoyed by staff. Phyllis is survived by her son Edwin (Grace) of Edmonton; her daughter Gloria (Edward) Buschert of Carstairs; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; brother Glen (Sharon) James of Carstairs and sister Audrey James of Calgary; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, her loving husband Ward of 57 years, brother Alf James and sister Margaret Good. We would like to thank the Aspen Ridge Lodge Staff for their excellent care of our mother. Funeral services were held on Thursday June 7, 2012 at the West Zion Mennonite Church with Pastor Trevor Kiriaka officiating. Interment was held at the West Zion Mennonite Cemetery. Memorial tributes may be made directly to the Mennonite Central Committee or the Alberta Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Heartland Funeral Services Ltd., Olds entrusted with arrangements. 403-507-8610
www.heartlandfuneralservices.com



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150. Birthdays/Anniversaries
150. Birthdays/Anniversaries

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www.for sight-didsbury.ca

100. Obituaries 100. Obituaries

CAL BRASSARD



Cal, beloved husband of Shawna, passed away at home of ALS on June 7, 2012 at the age of 57. Cal was a truly special person liked by everyone who met him. He was a big guy with a gentle spirit who took great pleasure in giving to others.

He was a successful man who started his career in the oil patch as a roughneck and worked his way up the ranks to become an oil and gas drilling superintendent. Cal loved every part of the industry and the people in it. He loved the outdoors and spent many hours fishing and riding horses. However, most of all he enjoyed the time spent with Shawna on their place west of Didsbury. Cal was predeceased by his father Roy, and will be sadly missed by his mother, Sheila; his brother, Scott (Janice); sisters, Terry (John) Makuk, and Alison (Mark) Lefebvre. Also left to mourn are Sherry (Larry) Sorensen, Norm and Gwen Haynes, and Bill Haynes. His ten nieces and nephews will miss his sense of fun and adventure. As Cal would say, "Time changes the face but not the smile." Services will be held on June 14, 2012 at 2:30 at the Zion Church in Didsbury. If friends so desire, donations may be made to the Didsbury Minor Hockey Association c/o of Cal Brassard at Box 308, Didsbury, Alberta, T0M 0W0. Messages of condolence to the family may be forwarded from www.mountainviewfuneralchapel.com. Arrangements entrusted to Mountain View Funeral Chapels, Didsbury, 403-335-4773.



110. In Memoriam 110. In Memoriam

Our Beloved

Murray Wackett

July 1, 1945 - June 11, 2011



He never looked for praises
He was never one to boast
He just went on quietly working
For those he loved the most
His dreams were seldom spoken
His wants were very few
And most of the time his worries
Would go unspoken too
He was there... A firm foundation
Through all our storms of life
A sturdy hand to hold onto
In times of stress and strife
A true friend we could turn to
When times were good and bad
Our single greatest blessing
The man that we called Dad, Papa & Murray

Forever loved and missed
Jim, Debby, Jason, Tina, Lisa & Marty
and families

130. Coming Events 130. Coming Events

Catholic Mass



at Didsbury
St. Anthony's Church
Saturday, June 23
7:00 pm
Everyone Welcome!!

150. Birthdays/Anniversaries 150. Birthdays/Anniversaries

HAPPY "65" BIRTHDAY



HARLEY SEYMOUR
FROM ALL YOUR FRIENDS

160. Marriages 160. Marriages

Ivan and Luella Braun are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter

Amanda Braun to Andrew Cammaert

of Rockyford, Alberta.



The Wedding is to take place on July 21, 2012 at Zion Church in Didsbury.

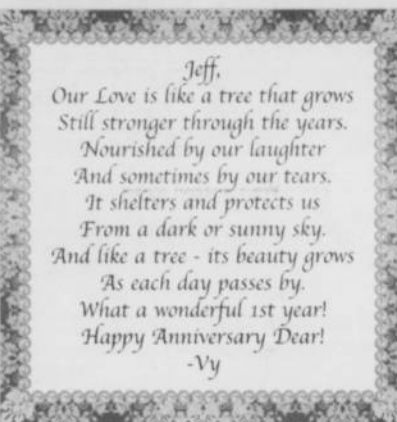
180. Thank You 180. Thank You

Saying Goodbye is always difficult but Rita's passing has been made easier by all of you who cared so much for our families. To friends in our community, to our extended families, to past and present co-workers and care givers, to our church families, to all the emergency personnel and Heartland Funeral Homes, we simply say "Thank you." Words cannot express how much we appreciate the love that has surrounded us. May God bless you all.

Claude Trenholm

John, Anne, Kathryn and families.

190. Announcements 190. Announcements



Jeff,
Our Love is like a tree that grows
Still stronger through the years.
Nourished by our laughter
And sometimes by our tears.
It shelters and protects us
From a dark or sunny sky.
And like a tree - its beauty grows
As each day passes by.
What a wonderful 1st year!
Happy Anniversary Dear!
-Vy

Please join us for a
bridal shower honouring
Kendra Milne
(Bride Elect of Rodney Stevens)
Saturday, June 23, 2012 at 2:00pm
Didsbury Train Station



1005. Help Wanted 1005. Help Wanted

Confidential Employer

Reporting to the Maintenance Supervisor, your duties include general plant and lift/lift maintenance.

Candidates must be experienced in pneumatics, valves, pumps, conveyors, and welding. Certification is not required but is considered to be an asset.

Prevent premature breakdown of the equipment used in production and to operate the facility through continual preventative maintenance.

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We are looking for candidates who are dependable, punctual and demonstrate the ability to work on a team.

We offer the following:

- \$23.00 per hour
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- Opportunity for Advancement
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We are looking for candidates who are dependable, punctual and demonstrate the ability to work on a team.

Interested candidates are asked to email their cover letter and resume to:
maintenance.applicants@gmail.com

We thank everyone who takes the time to apply, but please note that only those selected to move forward in the recruitment process will be contacted.

180. Thank You 180. Thank You 180. Thank You

Didsbury Playground Society
&
Apache Canada Ltd.

Invite you to join us as we celebrate the
"Kinsmen Playground Re-Opening"

Friday, June 15th 11:00-1:00 pm

Hot Dog Lunch * Ballooning * Face painting



Movie for the Park: "THE LORAX"
Friday, June 22 7pm at Zion Church
Suggested Donation \$5/family
Concession & Door Prizes

THE DIDSBURY PLAYGROUND SOCIETY

would like to thank the following businesses in support of our project
"Kinsmen Playground Enhancement: So 400 Can play"

GOLD (\$1000+)

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- Rubydale Asphalt
- CLT Contracting Ltd.
- Apache Canada Ltd.
- Angle Energy Inc.
- Unsurpassable Construction
- Household Goods Thrift Store
- Greywolf Production Systems Inc
- Westjet
- Hildbrandt Motors
- Tanas Concrete
- Didsbury Elks
- Didsbury Royal Purple
- Northland Recreational Supply

SILVER (\$500+)

- Masterfeeds
- Tracks Pub
- Impact Visual Design

BRONZE (\$100+)

- The Didsbury Library
- Front Porch Reality
- Subway
- AG Foods
- Waymore Auto
- Didsbury Chiropractic
- Olds Grizzlys Hockey Club
- Exxon Mobil
- Didsbury Scouts
- Cindy Tippe - Remax
- Spectrum Designs

1005. Help Wanted 1005. Help Wanted

Genetic Alliance Ltd. is seeking an enthusiastic individual to join their team east of Didsbury, Alberta. The opening is a part time to full time position working on the lab side of our Genetic Station. Duties will include learning how to process, package and analyze boar semen. Starting wage will be \$13.00-\$15.00 per hour depending on experience. Successful candidate needs to be reliable, hard working and have a good attitude. For more information, contact Thomas at 335-4150 or fax resume to 546-3101.

3900. Garage Sales 3900. Garage Sales

Garage Sale/Estate Sale

1803 - 17 St • June 15, 16

Time: 6-9, 9-3

Various household items,
dining room suite, bedroom suite,
car for sale. Condo for sale.

5003. Real Estate Misc. 5003. Real Estate Misc.

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2 car garage, finished basement, 3 bathrooms
No more shovelling or mowing lawn
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3210. Misc. For Sale

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by 1. Joyce Mullen, of
Didsbury area and 2. Marion
Vogel, of Didsbury area. Call
days 780-451-2432 Ext 10 and
ask for Opal."

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Call 335-3301

5130. Apartments For Rent

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50+, Adult Living. 1 bedroom
apartment, Avail. Immed.
\$600/mth., \$400DD incl.
utilities. N/S, N/P. Contact
Hugo Schwandt 403-335-3394

3 BEDROOM APARTMENT.
\$785.00 plus Utilities.
403-335-9630

SPACIOUS 3 BDRM. 1.5 bath
new floor, new carpet. Avail.
May 1/12. \$650.00/mth. plus
util. 403-348-6594

5135. Suites For Rent

2 BDRM. SUITE for rent
\$650/mth. + SD. 403-335-3180
or 403-271-0728

ONE BEDROOM BASEMENT
suite near Didsbury Hospital
available July, \$750.00 with
gas and town utilities included
SD- \$750, non-smoker, pets
considered, call Ruth or John
1-877-577-6945

5145. Wanted to Rent

MIDDLE AGE COUPLE
looking for a 1 or 2 bedroom
with utilities included in town of
Didsbury. Please call
403-559-9770, \$650-\$850 incl.

5150. Rooms/Room & Board

DIDSBURY MOTEL SPRING
& Summer Special Room
Rent Starts @ \$550 / Month
Please Inquire 403-335-3159

5160. Condos For Rent

UPDATED 3 BEDROOM
Townhouse. Quiet complex-
very little traffic. 403-479-4799

5170. Duplex / 4-plex for rent

LOVELY NEW 3 BEDROOM 2
bath, Duplex for rent in
Didsbury. \$1150.00/mth.
\$1150.00 DD. No Smoking- No
Pets. 403-559-9715

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2025 - 19 Avenue



Great Retail Space for Sale! 800 sq ft, central air conditioning, parking in the back, located on busy retail street in Didsbury

\$99,000

12, 1706 - 22 Avenue



Very nicely upgraded townhouse condo, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, newer flooring, newer kitchen cabinets, 2 tiered deck in back yard, close to the rec center

\$122,900

207 Westhill Close



Excellent location, front walkout basement, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, huge pie lot, single attached garage

\$259,900

24 Westheights Cres



Affordable home in preferred area, in need of some updating, 3 + 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, fireplace, newer furnace and water tank, great location

\$219,900

28 Westhill Drive



Super family home, 5 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, hardwood, oak kitchen, huge yard, great location

\$279,900

206 Campus Green



Terrific 45+ suite, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, all appliances, reasonable condo fees, overlooking courtyard, great neighbors

\$189,900

105 Morris Place



4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 9' ceilings, open floor plan, hardwood and slate, maple cabinets, granite counters, in floor heat in basement, gas fireplace, west facing deck

\$369,000

2147 - 23 Avenue



Terrific starter or revenue home, 2 bedrooms, original oak and fir hardwood floors, newer hot water tank and furnace, other upgrades done, nice area of town

\$169,900

Newly Subdivided!



2 acreage parcels close to Didsbury, drilled well and power, nicely located on a main, great access to OER

3.46 Acres \$224,000

2.52 Acres \$214,000

1912 - 20 Street



Great Commercial Building on Didsbury's busiest block, over 2500 sq ft, solid tenant with a long term lease, some additional space to rent as well

\$239,900

THE PORCH BOYZ

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF GREAT DEALS!

70 Aloha Mobile Home Park, Olds



Affordable 4 bedroom, 2 bath, mobile on rented lot, large lot is fenced, new hot water tank, quick possession

\$49,900

1306 - 23 Avenue



45+ unit with no condo fees, hardwood, vaulted ceiling, gas fireplace, open plan, nicely fenced and landscaped, single garage

\$229,900

210, 4500 - 50 Ave, Olds



Beautiful Legacy Village Condo, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 9' ceilings, many upgrades, covered balcony, too many amenities to list

\$199,900

221 Southridge Place



terrific family home, fireplace, vaulted ceiling, oak kitchen, 6' jetted tub in ensuite, beautiful newer cedar deck and fence, huge yard, double garage

\$254,900 with \$5,000 cash back

1337 - 25 Street



family 2 story, 3 + 1 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, oak kitchen, gas fireplace, double garage, good sized lot with R.V. parking off of lane

\$299,900

39 Meadowview Court



1300 sq ft, 3 bedrooms 2 baths on main, self contained basement suite w/ in floor heat, oversized double garage, large pie lot

\$344,900

1508 McAlpine St., Carstairs



Gorgeous brand new home, over 1700 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, open plan, maple hardwood, vaulted ceiling, main fir laundry, 9' basement, covered rear deck

\$349,900 includes GST

2145 - 23 Avenue



Newly subdivided vacant lot in a mature Didsbury neighborhood, 35' X 120' zoned R-2, unserviced, call for more info

\$59,900

107 Westridge Place



1505 sq ft fully finished home, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, hardwood, gas fireplace, open plan, huge yard, oversized garage

\$384,900

790 Stonehaven Dr, Carstairs



Immaculate home inside and out shows like new, 2+1 bedrooms, 3 baths, hardwood, fully finished, covered rear deck, underground sprinkler, oversized garage,

\$329,900

204 Westhill Close



Great 5 bedroom family home, wood stove, oak kitchen, double garage plus 24' X 14' workshop, super location

\$249,900

2101 - 22 Avenue



Beautiful family home, over 1900 sq ft, maple hardwood and ceramic tile throughout, great kitchen, main floor family room, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, great location on tree lined street

\$349,900

5.14 Acres of Quiet Country



Reasonably priced acreage, 1989 mobile has 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, open floor plan, cross fenced, automatic waterer, SW of Didsbury

\$249,900

1350 - 23 Street



large family home over 1600 sq ft, 4 + 1 bedrooms, 2 baths, large lot, very nice back yard with patio, newer siding, and more, double garage

\$279,900

4610 - 49 Street, Olds



Over 1500 sq ft of character living, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, fir flooring, newer shingles and furnace, beautifully landscaped extra large lot, single garage

\$259,900

808 Stonehaven Dr, Carstairs



Beautiful home, over 1800 sq ft, gas fireplace, vaulted ceilings, two 6' tubs (one jetted), fabulous kitchen, double garage plus 20' X 32' heated shop, backs onto the 17th green!

\$419,900

306 Westhill Close



Large well maintained bungalow in prime location, 3 + 1 bdrms, 3 baths, jetted tub, fireplace, dual "stacked" garage, beautiful yard

\$269,900

2202 - 20 Street



Terrific commercial land in down town Didsbury, 336 feet of frontage, fully serviced in 2 places, great location

\$199,900

301 Westview Greens



top floor corner unit with beautiful view of golf course and open country, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, gas fireplace, single garage

\$179,000